

State of California and having served in this Congress now for seven terms representing my State? Because I recall some 20 years ago when a debate ensued in my then-existing district in Palos Verdes, California, where the local chapter of NAMBLA, which is the North American Man/Boy Love Association, NAMBLA, and the dispute was that they wanted to have their local chapter meetings at the local library. Some of you may have seen their banners in certain parades that take place in San Francisco, where NAMBLA, instead of hiding, proudly proclaims their position of "sexual orientation." They argue, for instance, that we are denying children their right to have sexual expression with adults and that somehow we are hampering their development.

I am not making this up, my colleagues. This is a fact. And under a nondefined term of "sexual orientation," that very well may be included.

I could give you other examples, but that is a current example. And in order to make sure that that kind of activity is not enshrined in the law and given special protection, I asked for this simple amendment. And when I was in debate in the committee, I was told by the chairman that it made ample sense and we ought to work to do that.

So then I go before the distinguished Committee on Rules, make this presentation, have no argument against it, and yet am denied the simple opportunity to offer that.

So the question is why? If you don't want to extend this definition, if you don't want to have this free play out there in the legal atmosphere, why do you deny me the opportunity to present this simple amendment? Is there a hidden agenda here? Is there something we don't know? Are we flying under false flags here? What are we doing?

This is more, my colleagues, than just a dispute between the majority versus the minority on the Rules Committee. This is more than just hampering the minority. This is a question of simple definition which goes to a crucial question in our society today.

So my concern, my colleagues, is not fanciful. It is not made up. It is not something that may happen in the future. This is based on an experience that I have seen for 20-plus years in my home State. And yet when I asked to have this considered, I was told that it made eminent sense, we basically hear a great silence. A great silence.

Now, we can have games here in the House of Representatives, majority versus minority, but when it affects the lives of our constituents, when it affects in a very real way a serious social question in our society, it seems to me we ought to rise above this kind of nonsense, and we ought to at least give the Members the opportunity to consider it.

Maybe the Members don't agree with me. Maybe the Members think we ought to expand this definition. But at

least we ought to have the chance to debate it.

□ 1045

Last time I checked, we're not under a time clock here that requires us to leave. We could consider this.

So I would ask my colleagues to please vote down this rule. Allow us to bring forward a rule that allows consideration of these and other amendments.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), I would like to give my colleagues a couple of examples of the kinds of crimes that we're talking about here.

In Los Angeles, California, 2003, after seeing him hugging another man on the street, three men attacked Treve Broudy, who was 34 years old, with a baseball bat. The incident left Broudy in a coma. Broudy was also hospitalized for approximately 10 weeks after the attack, and has lost half of his vision and has experienced trouble hearing.

In Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1997, James Kittredge was attacked by three young men he offered a ride to outside of a gay club in Charlottesville, Virginia. The men offered to take him to party, but instead they dragged Kittredge out of his car, where they beat him, smashing eight of his ribs and eye socket, urinated on him, put cigarettes out on him and locked him in his own trunk. He was found over a day later.

I can go on and on and on with examples of these hate crimes, but this is what we are trying to prevent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the Rules Committee for very diligent and thorough review. About 14 Members of Congress were able to present their case before the Rules Committee.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, to reaffirm that this is about hate. There are already well-recognized doctrines and no disagreement that no matter who you are as an adult, sex with children is wrong. Many of us have enthusiastically supported Federal laws that already oppose that kind of abuse and violation.

It is important to note that not only in the Rules Committee did Members have the opportunity to make the case as to the relevance of their amendments to this bill, but we sat for hours and hours in the Judiciary Committee going over amendment after amendment, amendments that were not about hate. They were, of course, certainly elements that one could raise, but they were protected in other aspects of the law. This bill pertains specifically to historical documented cases that, be-

cause of your disability or because of your race, because of your gender, because of your gender identity you have been abused.

You have not seen the depth of degradation unless you've listened to people who have come to you in tears, who cannot, for any reason, tell you why they are who they are, but they say they are who they are, sort of a mix of words. And the pain of living as a human being who is rejected every day of their life, fearful that they may encounter brutality, that is the simplicity of this bill. That is why 31 Attorney Generals currently serving have said we need this. That is why they have asked the Federal Government simply to help us calm the communities, prosecute the cases, make sure that those who have a historical investment in themselves, who they are, can be protected; that a young Hispanic teenager does not have to be brutalized by skinheads. It is emotional, it is fearful, but it is true.

And so when my colleagues talk about this rule, let me assure you that hours upon hours of attention to amendments have already been given, debated, presented. But what we have tried to do is to answer the pain, answer the violence, and yes, answer the call of 31 attorneys of the United States of America.

Pass this rule so that we can debate the question of preventing hate.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is a critical piece of legislation, not from the good that it will do, but from the chilling and even killing effect it will have down the road on free speech.

Now, I know that there are people that have said that this is an over-reaction, much like people said in 1935 and 1936 that those nuts here on the floor that were concerned Social Security numbers, once created, might be used as identification numbers, and they were promised and assured that it would not happen. But some folks here could see down the road where it was going.

Now, the rule on this is so grossly unfair. If you really want to deal with hate crimes, what about the hate crimes for the elderly? We've seen that recently. They're not part of this. No, that wasn't part of the agenda. You can have a 100-year-old woman beat up by some mean thug, but that doesn't count; we're not going to prosecute. She doesn't deserve protected status.

Frankly, I had a hard time believing we were taking up this law immediately after the tragedy at Virginia Tech. We even had a Holocaust survivor that was randomly shot. I had an amendment proposed that was struck in committee, and the rule being proposed is a closed rule, no amendments, but that would address random violence. Because what we see is a Federal offense where a defense will be, you